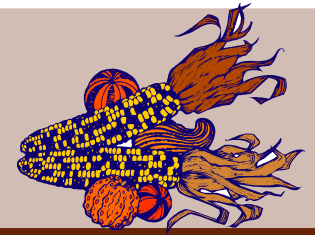


ResourceReport



The Newsletter for Waukesha County's Department of Parks and Land Use

November 2001



Waukesha County
Parks & Land Use
1320 Pewaukee Rd.
Rooms 230 & 260
Waukesha, WI 53186

Parks & Land Use Divisions

Business Operations
Enterprise Operations
Environmental Health
Land Information
Land Resources
Parks System
Planning & Zoning



Resource Report

The Friends of Retzer Nature Center, a private support group of the Nature Center, announced the group's newest fundraising campaign during Apple Harvest Festival on September 22, 2001. Dick Nawrocki, President of the Friends, announced that they would raise \$300,000 (approximately one third of the project cost) for the new learning center expansion project. The Friends of Retzer are seeking financial support through a community capital campaign.

The learning center addition will add 5,000 square feet to the existing nature center building. This will provide additional space for students, families, and individuals to learn about conservation and stewardship of our land through new exhibits, classes, and programs. Construction is planned to start in 2003. If you are interested in learning more about the project or to invest in this worthy community partnership, please contact Retzer Nature Center at 262-896-8007 or write Friends of Retzer Nature Center, W284 S1530 Road DT, Waukesha, WI 53188.

Retzer Nature Center recently received more good news. Waukesha County Parks was able to negotiate the purchase of the adjacent 68 acres Owen Williams' property. Larry Kascht, supervisor for Retzer Nature Center, said, the acquisition was imperative to our future programs and our future growth. The property abuts the current nature center lands and expands the boundary to the east. (See map on page 8.) The property placement is key to connecting the acreage that is currently a part of the nature center.

In other park news, Mike Duffy, the Park Foreman of Naga-Waukee Park received the Employee of Distinction Award on the morning of October 3, 2001. Mike was nominated by Debbie Rapp of

"Come Grow With Us!"

By: Mona Bauer, Parks Program Specialist



The New Learning Center Expansion Project

(SEE MAP ON BACK)

Learning center addition will add 5,000 square feet to existing building

Human Services for his wonderful customer service skills when planning and implementing the annual Waukesha County Picnic at Naga-Waukee Park. Congratulations Mike on a job well done!

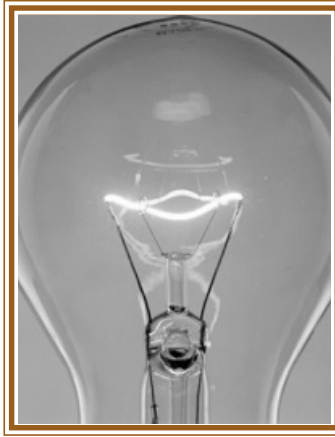
Other projects that are being worked on by the park staff include the improvement of Muskego Park. The plan is to improve the current road system throughout the park that includes the addition of culverts to help with drainage and the removal of hazardous on-road parking, as the roads are being repaved. The project started on October 1st and will conclude in the Spring of 2002. As part of the project, additional parking lots will be added to park pavilion area #4, both group and family camping areas, and adding a new shelter to picnic area #5. The construction project will result in some areas being temporarily closed to the public. The group and family camping areas are closed for the season. If you have any questions about this construction project, please call Linda at 262-548-7801. We apologize for any inconvenience this current project may cause.

A New Partner in the Quest for Energy Efficiency

By: Toral Jha & Leslie Williams

As part of a county facility-wide effort to reduce waste and prevent pollution, the Department is working with Wisconsin Focus on Energy to identify energy conservation opportunities at five County Park buildings, the Exposition Center Arena and Forum, the ice arenas and the Materials Recycling Facility.

What is Wisconsin Focus on Energy? As part of the 1999 State budget bill, a law was passed which added a new fee to all Wisconsin electric bills. Also, all the energy conservation programs that were initiated by utility companies were phased out. The state is now offering these services on a privatized basis under the umbrella Wisconsin Focus on Energy. This organization provides services to homeowners, commercial or industrial facility owners, and municipal governments. Wisconsin Focus on Energy can also



access information regarding environmental issues and make building owners aware of the latest conservation technologies.

Wisconsin Focus on Energy will develop recommendations for our facilities such as replacing lighting or upgrading heating and air conditioning systems. They will also estimate the cost of improvements and analyze the payback time given our present energy use. Their next task

will be to assist in project design and identifying funding options. One of the benefits of using these state-sponsored services is having an objective third party advise us as other contractors implement these energy conservation projects. We hope to be making the recommended improvements to facilities in 2003.

In addition to the energy assessments, we are also conducting waste assessments. Department staff are looking at solid waste and recycling practices and issues as well as hazardous waste minimization and disposal efforts at each park. A report including observations, recommendations and a listing of resources will be prepared for each location. This effort is intended to support and improve current solid

and hazardous waste practices in the Department.

Look for future newsletter updates on energy and waste conservation efforts. ■



Waukesha County Department of Parks & Land Use

Dale R. Shaver, Director

1320 Pewaukee Road, Room 260
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-896-8300

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George A. Morris, Manager	262-896-8300
Land Information Division	Room 171
Donald G. Dittmar, Manager	262-896-8270
Land Resources Division	Room 260
Perry M. Lindquist, Manager	262-548-7867
Parks System Division	Room 230
James W. Kavemeier, Manager	262-548-7807
Planning & Zoning Division	Room 230
Richard L. Mace, Manager	262-548-7817

Land Recycling Initiative

By: Leslie Williams, Hazardous Materials Coordinator

What happens to those old abandoned gas stations we see around street corners in the County? What can the County do to return these properties to productive use?

Tax delinquency is often the connection between the abandoned property and the County. When a property owner fails to pay their taxes, the County begins a process intended to recover those lost monies. During the process the County reimburses other taxing jurisdictions and holds the entire tax debt. Typically, after the County has held the debt for three years it takes ownership, gets an appraisal, and sells the property at auction to recover the tax debt.

There are many reasons why properties become tax delinquent.

One is real or perceived environmental contamination. These properties are often dubbed Brownfields. The private owner may find that clean-up costs exceed the value of the property. No one will buy

Our practice has been to review delinquent properties for environmental concerns

it so the owner stops paying taxes. Deciding to acquire these properties is a gamble for the County. If we don't take ownership, the tax debt accumulates. If we do acquire in hopes of selling at auction, we could be left holding an environmental liability. Often interested parties are kept at bay by a lack of useful information about the extent of contamination or cost of fixing the problem. Our practice has been to review delinquent properties for environmental concerns prior to the actual taking and group them into two categories acquire and do not acquire. A few properties have languished for years on the do not acquire list until by statute we were required to forgive the tax debt. Others we now own are not selling due to incomplete environmental information and/or a lack of marketing resources.



The private owner may find that clean-up costs exceed the value of the property.

Brownfields properties can be seen as a resource to be redeveloped in order to increase tax revenues and employment opportunities. Brownfields redevelopment can also mean an increase in open space and recreational areas for residents and nonresidents alike.

The Environmental Health Division has asked for money in the County Executive's 2002 Budget to create a self-replenishing environmental services fund to pursue Land Recycling projects. We will target funds toward tax delinquent parcels with the highest potential for redevelopment and marketability. We will work to access State clean-up funds and partner with municipalities and interested parties to return these properties to the tax rolls.



From the Desk of County Executive Daniel M. Finley...

When we think about parks we naturally tend to think about swimming, hiking, and picnicking. But activities at our parks don't end when the days get shorter and the snow begins to fall. They are just beginning.

So, as the leaves change and summer again gives way to fall and winter, it is time to think about experiencing the beauty and opportunities that the Waukesha County Park System offers year round.

Take time this winter to enjoy cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding at your favorite Waukesha County park. In addition, you can brush up on your ice skating year round at the Eble and Naga-Waukee Ice Arena's. Whatever your pleasure, take advantage of your Waukesha County parks this winter.

For more information on certain activities at particular parks, click on the Waukesha County home page at www.waukeshacounty.gov or call us at 548-7801. Get out and enjoy!

County Provides Dividends to Recycling Partner Municipalities

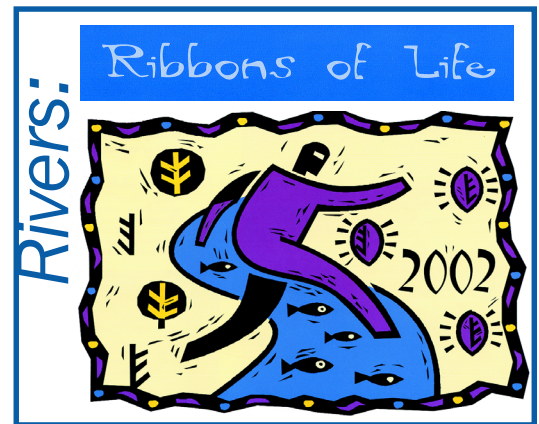
By Karen Fiedler, Recycling Supervisor

In Waukesha County's 2002 budget, twenty-five municipalities participating in the county recycling program will receive a total of \$600,000 in dividends. Amounts range from \$1,400 to \$145,000 based on the percentage of state grant contributions received since the beginning of the program. Last fall the County Board approved a policy of annual dividends, provided there is sufficient balance in the segregated cash reserve fund to maintain operations without charging a tip fee at the MRF.

As Responsible Unit, the county has used state funds received on behalf of partner municipalities and revenue from the sale of recyclables to provide processing and marketing of recyclables at its Materials

Recycling Facility (MRF). County staff also provides coordination of the program, public education, and conduct business compliance inspections. Municipalities are responsible for the cost of recyclables collection for residents as part of their contracts with haulers.

Since 1991, more than **187,500 tons** of newspaper, corrugated cardboard, magazines, residential office paper and mail, glass, plastic bottles and cans have been collected and processed for recycling at the MRF. That equates to more than 9,300 semi truckloads of baled materials shipped to markets to be manufactured into new products.



Rivers - Ribbons of Life

By: Jayne Jenks
Conservation Specialist

This year's Champions of the Environment Competition will celebrate rivers with the theme of Rivers Ribbons of Life. The Champions of the Environment competition is open to all students of Waukesha County in grades K-12.

Students may demonstrate their environmental knowledge in 6 different divisions, including poster, spokesperson, computer art, essay, photography and project. Medals and savings bonds will be awarded in each division for the top three finalists in each age category \$100, \$75, and \$50 respectively. Age categories are grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Entries should reflect the theme Rivers Ribbons of Life. For complete rules and deadlines, call Jayne Jenks at 896-8305.

Wisconsin has been blessed with abundant water resources, and rivers are a vital part. Let's celebrate our rivers and be a Champion for our Environment!

Mapping Activities-Planning & Zoning Division

By: Hans Dumke, Land Information System Analyst

From historical aerial photography to future land use plans, the Planning and Zoning Division uses a wide variety of maps and geographic data to help guide our land use planning and zoning administration efforts. Maps that we refer to regularly and also have available for public use and purchase include topographic maps, zoning maps, wetland maps, floodplain maps, and many more. Several changes to these maps and the way they are reproduced have occurred recently or will be occurring in the near future:

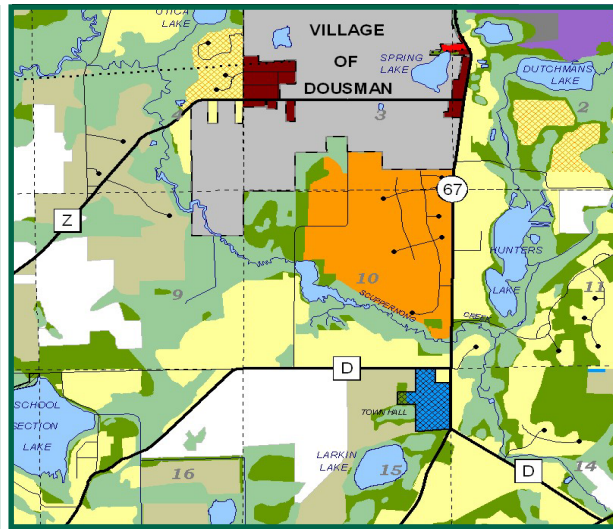
New Maps and Datasets

Year 2000 aerial photographs are available now for the eastern half of the county and should be available for the western half of the county by the end of the year. The new aeriels are clear and easy-to-read, due to a higher pixel resolution (1' pixel) than previous versions. As part of the aerial photography update, topographic maps with two-foot contour intervals are being generated for the entire county and should be available in January, 2002. We are also working on publishing a new Plat Book to replace the current Plat Book, which is four years old. We are currently looking for advertisers to help lower the cost of the book and hope to have the updated Plat Book available for purchase next spring. Look for an updated Street Atlas sometime next summer. Some additional maps and datasets that have been recently created for the county include inventories of landfills, burial sites, and wireless communication tower sites.

The new aeriels are clear and easy-to-read, due to higher pixel resolution

New Zoning and Land Use Maps

The Planning and Zoning Division updates and maintains zoning maps for 10 communities in the county. We are in the process of converting zoning maps, currently maintained using pen and ink, to a digital format that can be overlaid on maps showing the most current parcels, roads, & municipal boundaries using the county's GIS system. This way the zoning maps will always have current base map information and can be reproduced at different scales and in color. Updated zoning maps are available for the Towns



Land Use Plan

of Brookfield, Genesee, Lisbon, Mukwonago, Oconomowoc, Ottawa, Vernon, and Waukesha. Updated zoning maps for the Towns of Delafield and Merton should be available by next spring. The Waukesha County Shoreland and Floodland Protection Ordinance Zoning Maps are also slated for conversion to a digital format in the near future.

We are also in the process of creating new land use plan maps for several county communities. Earlier this year we updated the Town of Vernon Master Land Use Plan Map and the Town of Vernon Official Map as part of that Town's effort to consolidate with the Village of Big Bend. In addition, we have recently digitized and updated the Town of Mukwonago Land Use Plan Map and are in the process of creating new land use plan maps for the Towns of Ottawa and Lisbon. Maps of the County Development Plan (Build Out Stage and 2010 Stage) are updated annually and are available on a countywide or township basis.



Continued on Pg 6

**Resource Report
Page 5**

New Large Format Copier

Earlier this year we purchased a large format digital copier that can also be used as a scanner or plotter. The copier, made by KIP, replaced our blueprint machine, which was breaking down on a regular basis and was not interoperable with today's technology. We use the new copier to produce prints of topographic maps and aerial photographs for our own use and for sale to the public. In addition to being able to reproduce large maps and documents, the copier can scan documents up to 36" wide and create digital images of the maps, which can then be used in other software applications. The copier, which is hooked up to the county's network, can also act

as a high-speed black and white plotter, with the ability to print 6 D size (24" x 36") sheets a minute. With its speed, ease of use, and functionality, the new copier should meet our reprographic needs for some time to come.

The maps described above and many more are available to the public in printed or computer file format for the cost of duplication or printing. For additional information concerning mapping resources available through the Department of Parks and Land Use, please call the Planning and Zoning Division at (262) 548-7790 or visit our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/mapping.html.



Large Format Copier

Stabilizing Streambanks Benefits the Fox River

By: Mark Jenks
Land Conservation Supervisor

Work continues to stabilize eroding streambanks and improve water quality in the Fox River watershed. In cooperation with the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission, staff from the Land Resources Division have worked with local landowners to install streambank protection measures along portions of the Fox River where a field inventory conducted by Land Resources staff identified sites with streambank erosion problems.



Using a combination of vegetation and riprap (stone armor), nearly 650 feet of river frontage has been stabilized in the Big Bend Village Park.

Because each site along a river channel is unique, streambank protection measures must be installed according to a plan and adapted to site-specific conditions. Using a combination of vegetation and riprap (stone armor), nearly 650 feet of river frontage has been stabilized in the Big Bend Village Park.

Another project in the Town of Vernon will eventually stabilize almost 900 feet of riverbank next to a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the sensitive nature of this site, an archeological survey was required to be done as part of the permit approval process. The project design for this site also calls for a combination of vegetation and riprap. When installed, this project will provide a naturalized vegetative buffer between the Fox River and the adjacent land use.



Archeologists perform detailed site investigation



Sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places require archeological survey

Community Festivals Stay Clean and Green

By: Toral Jha and Linda Wainstock

The County's Solid Waste Staff has provided waste reduction assistance to several local community festivals. By adopting such strategies as recycling plastic bottles, using souvenir cups for discounted refills and saving food scraps for compost, many groups have noticed cleaner festival grounds and realized cost savings.

RiverFest, Waukesha

Vendors and entertainers reduced waste behind the scenes by recycling 1,200 pounds of cardboard and all of their kitchen grease. Due to this year's success, festival planners hope to make recycling and waste reduction available to the public during next year's event through drink refills and/or beverage container recycling.

Waukesha County Fair

This year's nearly 106,000 attendees recycled 5,300 soda/water bottles. Made from 100% recycled plastic soda bottles, the 50 bright green NAPCOR recycling bins located throughout the fair grounds provided an attractive and convenient method for fair goers to recycle their beverage containers. Also, volunteers and leaders at the 4-H Forum building composted kitchen food waste for the second year. Over 500 pounds of food waste were collected, giving a two-year total of over 1000 pounds.

The Cherry Cherry Festival, Menomonee Falls

In September, Cherry Cherry Festival, a local arts and crafts event, collected 100 pounds of cardboard and 90 pounds of plastic soda bottles. Event planners used NAPCOR recycling bins, worked with a local hauling company, the event's trash crew, and educated vendors to ensure recycling success.

Many festivals and special events in the metro Milwaukee area, such as Irish Fest and River Splash, have implemented waste reduction practices for many years. To learn more about their successes, call the Southeast Wisconsin Waste Reduction Coalition at 414-272-3334 or visit www.besmart.org to request a copy of Event Planners Guide to Waste Reduction.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE MRF



Waukesha County Materials Recycling Facility
220 S. Prairie Avenue – Waukesha
Saturday, November 10, 2001
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Tour the facility

Visit education room

Celebrate America Recycles Day

*There are no secrets to success:
Don't waste time looking for them.
Success is the result of perfection,
hard work, learning from failure,
loyalty to those for whom you
work, and persistence.*

General Colin Powell

Resource Report

Waukesha County
Department of Parks & Land Use
1320 Pewaukee Road
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

"Come Grow With Us"

A New Partner in the Quest for Energy Efficiency
Land Recycling Initiative

From the Desk of County Exec. Daniel M. Finley...
County Provides Dividends to Recycling Partner
Municipalities

Rivers-Ribbons of Life

Mapping Activities-Planning & Zoning Division

Stabilizing Streambanks Benefits the Fox River
Community Festivals Stay Clean & Green

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Resource Report

The New Retzer Learning Center Expansion Project

